

Abstract 633

TITLE: Effective HIV Prevention with Marginalized Populations: The Harm Reduction Model Of Behavior Change

AUTHORS: Springer, E., A. C. S. W.

HIV prevention work with stigmatized, marginalized populations such as drug users, sex workers, people of transgender experience, street youth, et al. is not simply about how to use condoms, injection equipment hygiene, or taking HIV antibody tests. Quick and dirty educational/behavior modification interventions frequently fail because stigmatized people have issues, which create barriers to behavior change. Worker attitudes, program environment, and the process of behavior change is more important than the specifics of HIV risk-reduction. The Harm Reduction Model is a process is given the importance it deserves. Process is the worker's task, while outcome is the consumer's bailiwick. By not trying to control people or set goals for them, by being nonjudgmental and validating consumers' concerns lifestyles, values and ways of seeing the world, by validating people where they are at and respecting their struggles to survive and cope with spoiled identity and a hostile environment, harm reduction helps people heal their traumatic scars. Comprehensive HIV prevention strategies, which are implemented over time in a slow, incremental fashion, lead to desired behavior change toward happiness, health and contentment with life.

This presentation will discuss harm reduction as a behavior change model rather than focusing on one program.

PRESENTER CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Edith Springer, A.C.S.W.

Address: Harm Reduction Training Inst. 22 W. 27 St. 9th Floor
New York, N.Y. 10001

Telephone: (212) 683-2334 Ext 13

Fax: (212) 213-6582

E-mail: eshrti@harmreduction.org